

REMARKS

The following is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated January 21, 2009, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on April 21, 2009. The Examiner rejected claims 53 and 61 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner rejected claims 60-67 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Examiner rejected claims 52-58, 60-66, and 68 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Drenttel (U.S. 7,124,360) in view of Santoro (U.S. 6,724,360). The Examiner rejected claims 59 and 67 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Drenttel in view of Santoro and Butler (U.S. 6,018,340). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Rejections under §112

The Examiner rejected claims 53 and 61 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for antecedent basis issues. In response, claims 53 and 61 are amended to recite the claim term “a [[the]] user” to correct these informalities. Based on these amendments to the claims, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections under §112.

Rejections under §101

The Examiner rejected claims 60-67 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. More specifically, the Examiner indicates that the definition of “computer-readable medium” in the present application at paragraph [0036] includes forms of energy that fall outside the statutory categories of patentable subject matter. In response, the preamble of claims 60-67 is amended to recite a computer-readable storage medium, as suggested by the Examiner in the Final Office Action dated May 2, 2007.

Additionally, paragraph [0036] of the present application is amended to exclude carrier waves. Please note that paragraph [0036] of the present application was previously amended in the Response to Non-Final Office Action filed on February 5, 2007.

Based on the foregoing amendments to the claims and to paragraph [0036] of the present application, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the §101 rejections.

Rejections under §103

Claim 52 is amended to recite the limitations of one or more user-defined boundaries that creates two or more window areas, where a first application window is associated with a first window area. Amended claim 52 further recites the limitations of a first portion of the first window area being displayed within a first of the at least two computer displays and a second portion of the first window area being displayed within a second of the at least two computer displays. The cited references fail to teach or suggest the claimed "first window area."

The Examiner admits that each of Drenttel and Santoro fails to teach or suggest the claimed limitations of first and second portions of the first window area being displayed within first and second computer displays, respectively, as recited in amended claim 52. Instead, the Examiner relies on Butler as disclosing these limitations. More specifically, the Examiner points to Figure 4 of Butler, which illustrates that "the combination of ... one monitor space 41 ... and a second monitor space 43 corresponding to monitor 332 ... may be treated as a single, contiguous virtual desktop 45 ... [t]hrough appropriate cursor manipulations, an end-user may move objects, such windows A, B, C, D and cursor 25, back and forth between the two monitor spaces 41 and 43 or may even position one of these objects (e.g., window C in FIG. 4) so that it spans the two monitor spaces" (see Butler at column 1, lines 54-63). However, "window C" in Butler is an application window, and is not a window area created by the one or more user-defined boundaries, as recited in claim 52. Thus, "window C" is not equivalent to the claimed first window area.

Similar to the Bauer reference previously cited by the Examiner (U.S. 2003/0197739), Butler discloses a technique for arranging windows that are displayed on one or more monitors, where a user can move and resize the windows to the desired location and size. However, there is no disclosure in Butler of user-defined boundaries or window areas, or equivalents thereof. The claimed window area is an intermediate construct that reflects a specific area on the computer display that can

then be associated with an application window. Such an intermediate construct does not exist in Butler, where the windows are directly placed on the monitor display. As Butler contains no disclosure of window areas, the reference cannot teach the limitations of associating the first application window with the first window area, where a first portion of the first window area is displayed within a first computer display and a second portion of the first window area is displayed within a second computer display, as recited in amended claim 52.

Additionally, even if the teachings of Drenttel, Santoro, and Butler were combined to form a single system, such a hypothetical system would not disclose the limitations of the pending claims. Based on the teachings of Butler, the hypothetical system could include only two display monitors, where, based on Drenttel, each monitor can be divided into two or more tiles. However, each tile included in the hypothetical system would wholly reside within one of the display monitors and would not overflow into the other display monitor (see Drenttel at Figures 9A-9C). The hypothetical system could include an application window that partially overlaps one display monitor and partially overlaps the other display monitor (see Butler at Figure 4); but, the application window could not be included within one of the tiles, since none of the tiles partially covers both display monitors. Thus, the hypothetical system would fail to teach or suggest any equivalent to the claimed first window area, where a first portion of the first window area is displayed within one computer display and a second portion of the first window area is displayed within another computer display (with the application window being displayed within the first window area), as now clearly recited in amended claim 52.

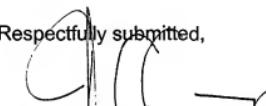
As the foregoing illustrates, Butler fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation of amended claim 52. Additionally, each of Drenttel and Santoro fails to cure the deficiencies of Butler. Therefore, these references cannot render amended claim 52 obvious. For these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 52 is allowable over the cited references and requests allowance of the claim. Furthermore, independent claims 60 and 68 are amended to recite limitations similar to those of amended claim 52. Therefore, claims 60 and 68 are allowable for at least

the same reasons as amended claim 52. The remaining claims depend from allowable claims 1, 60, and 68 and are therefore also allowable.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above remarks, Applicants believe that they have overcome all of the rejections set forth in the Final Office Action dated January 21, 2009, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, please contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,


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